

# What Do Digital Connectors

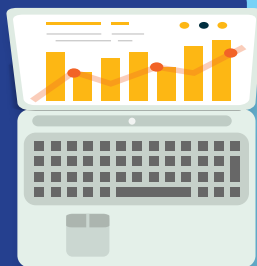
103

Digital  
Connectors



537

Computers  
Refurbished  
& Distributed



2,707

Residents Trained



5,710

Community Service Hours



## Raleigh Digital Connectors

The City of Raleigh provides the Raleigh Digital Connectors training program for youth living in Raleigh city limits. Digital Connectors is a nationally renowned program. It provides technology training and mentoring for young people, age 14 through 21, from diverse backgrounds and neighborhoods.

Raleigh Digital Connectors are dedicated to improving their communities and themselves through technology and community service. The program allows young people to expand 21st century technology skills, develop professional life skills, participate in open data projects, explore workplace pathways, and serve their communities.

The City of Raleigh sustains the program through strategic partnerships and offers expanded levels of digital readiness, including Cisco Essentials training and certification. Raleigh aims to develop a sustainable program other communities can use for preparing youth to succeed in the evolving digital economy.

## Program Overview

During the academic school year, Digital Connectors attend classes two evenings a week for a total of five hours. Youth learn technical, leadership, social, and life skills through a combination of instructor-led training, team exercises, field trips, guest speakers, mentors, and community service. Participation in this interactive, challenging learning experience culminates in a formal graduation celebration and the opportunity to continue serving the community as Digital Connectors alumni. Graduates of the program receive \$500, a laptop computer, and other incentives for participating.

In an innovative technology room at the Saint Monica Teen Center, Digital Connectors learn skills in twelve core competencies:

- Leadership & Diversity
- Personal Development
- Workforce Development
- Financial Literacy
- Community Mapping
- Digital Literacy
- Coding
- Open Data Principles
- Environmentalism and Sustainability
- Civic Journalism
- Service and Global Engagement
- Teaching and Facilitation

## Community Service

Youth in the Raleigh Digital Connectors program serve as ambassadors, teaching their families, friends, and neighbors to participate in the digital economy. Digital Connectors practice skills that prepare young people for opportunities in tomorrow's technology-driven economy. Students give 60 community service hours throughout the school year. Raleigh Digital Connectors give back to the community and help address the digital divide by:

- Promoting digital literacy at community events with partner agencies
- Teaching computer and Internet skills to community members
- Refurbishing computers for economically disadvantaged families
- Performing humanitarian community service projects

## Long-lasting Benefits

- Increasing computer and Internet knowledge
- Learning the value of access and digital inclusion in their community
- Becoming certified in Ever-Fi financial literacy
- Learning entrepreneurship and life skills
- Gaining skills to succeed in high school, college, and the global workforce
- Becoming young leaders in the community

Through access, education, and inclusion, we are building a culture that values technology and embraces it to enhance lives.



### Additional Information

#### Digital Connectors Video

<http://youtu.be/gQxIHRRRtcA>



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